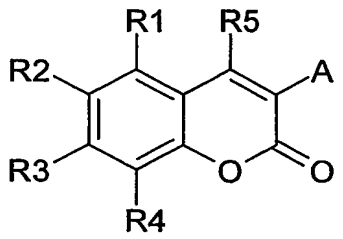
CLAIMS

1. Compounds of the formula I



(I)

wherein:

A is a four to seven membered heterocyclic ring, aromatic or non aromatic, containing one or more nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atoms in one or more heterocyclic rings and optionally substituted on the carbon atoms with halogens, alkyls which may be optionally substituted by halogen, amino, hydroxy or cyano groups, aryls, an aromatic or non-aromatic 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing at least one atom of oxygen, sulfur o nitrogen, hydroxy, amino, monoalkylamino, monoarylamino, bisalkylamino, bisarylamino, (alkyl)(aryl)amino, carbonylamino, alkyl(carbonyl)amino, alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano groups or, on the nitrogen atoms, with alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl groups or with oxygen atoms to form N-oxides; said four to seven membered heterocyclic ring being optionally fused to one or two aryl, heteroaryl or cycloalkyl groups, in their turn optionally substituted with amino, C1-C8-monoalkylamino, monoarylamino, C1-C8-bisalkylamino, aryloxy, halogens, alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano groups; said aryl, heteroaryl or cycloalkyl groups being optionally partially saturated or unsaturated, respectively;

R1-R4 are independently selected from:

hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl optionally interrupted by one or more

heteroatoms such as oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, thio, cyano, carboxy, carboxylic esters,or amides, C_1-C_8 haloalkoxy, phenoxy, aralkoxy, C_1-C_8 acyloxy, amino, C_1-C_8 monoalkylamino, C_1-C_8-bisalkylamino, C_1-C_8-acylamino, C_1-C_8-alkylsulfonylamino, aroylamino, halogen, , nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, carboxy, C_1-C_3 alkoxycarbonyl, a $R_aR_bN(CH_2)_nC(=O)$- group where R_a and R_b are independently hydrogen, C_1-C_3-alkyl or R_a and R_b together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to form a pyrrolidino, piperidino, piperazino or morpholino ring and n = 0 or an integer 2 to 4, sulfonyl, mercapto, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4-alkylsulfinyl, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_3-alkylaminosulfonyl, a group $CH_2NR_aR_b$, or, taken together with the atoms to which they are attached, R1 and R2 or R2 and R3, or R3 and R4 form an additional aromatic or heteroaromatic ring;

R5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_7-C_{10} aralkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, amide, ester, N-oxide, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof,

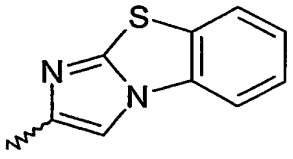
as inhibitors of VEGF transcription in mammalian cells.

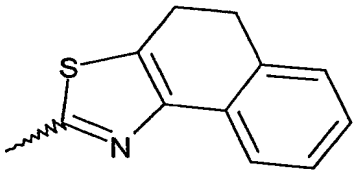
2. Compounds according to claim 1 wherein the heterocyclic rings A are selected from pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiophenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, indolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,5-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyle, pyrazinyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, benzofuranyl, indazolyl, carbazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzotriazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, cinnolinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, phthalazinyl, 1,2,3-triazinyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, purinyl, pteridinyl, benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl, 4,5-dihydro-naphtho[1,2-d]thiazolyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl.

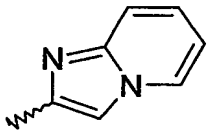
3. Compounds according to claim 2 wherein A is selected from: thiazolyl,

1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl, 4,5-dihydro-naphtho[1,2-d]thiazolyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl.

4. Compounds according to claim 3 wherein A is selected from thiazolyl, wherein the thiazole ring is connected to the 3-position of the coumarin ring through the 2-, 4- or 5-position, i. e. a 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl or 5-thiazolyl residue, 1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl, 1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl, benzothiazol-2-yl, benzimidazol-2-yl, benzoxazol-2-yl,

benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-2-yl of formula  ,

4,5-dihydro-naphtho[1,2-d]thiazole-2-yl of formula 

imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-2-yl of formula  .

5. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein R1, R2, R3, and R4 are hydroxy, C1-C8-alkoxy, amino, C_1-C_8 monoalkylamino, C_1-C_8-bisalkylamino.

6. Compounds according to claim 5, wherein R1, R2, R3, and R4 are hydroxy or diethylamino.

7. A compound according to claim 1, which is 3-[4-phenylthiazol-2-yl]-7-(N,N-diethylamino)-chromen-2-one.

8. Compounds according to claims 1-7 as angiogenesis inhibitors.

9. Compounds according to claims 1-7 as anti-proliferative agents.

10. A composition comprising a compound as defined in claims 1-7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. A method of inhibiting VEGF production in a cell, comprising contacting said cell with an effective amount of an active compound, as defined in claims 1-7.

12. A method of inhibiting angiogenesis, comprising contacting a cell with an effective amount of an active compound, as defined in claims 1-7, whether *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

13. A method of treating a proliferative condition in a patient comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically-effective amount of an active compound, as defined in claims 1-7.

14. The use of an active compound, as defined in claims 1-7 for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a proliferative condition.